

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are allowed. Rejected claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

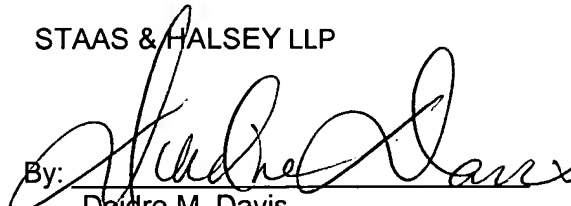
Respectfully submitted,

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5/18/2006

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